THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • APRIL 4, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

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INVINCIBLE AUSTRALIA WIN SEVENTH WORLD CUP TITLE

The unbeaten Meg Lanning side finish the campaign with a thumping 71-run victory against England in the final

THE MOST COMPETITIVE TOURNAMENT EVER

As the 31-day cricket carnival came to an end at Christchurch, the marquee tournament will go down as one of the most competitive World Cups yet, with as many as 10 last-over thrillers. Debutants Bangladesh left a positive impression, Pakistan ended their losing streak, while a resurgent West Indies and steely South Africa made their way into the knockouts past India | P11

ALYSSA HEALY'S DAY OUT AT HAGLEY OVAL

The opener was named Player of the Match and Tournament	Is the first to score tons in both semifinal and final of a World Cup	Total score of 509 by Healy is most for any batter in a World Cup	Alyssa Healy-Rachael Haynes 160-run stand is the highest for any wicket in a WC final

170
BY HEALY IS THE HIGHEST SCORE IN ANY MEN'S OR WOMEN'S WC FINAL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Battle in SC after Imran calls snap polls

Deputy speaker dismisses no-confidence motion moved by united Opposition; PM gets presidential assent to go for fresh elections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PAKISTAN'S beleaguered Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday ducked a floor test he was certain to lose, by getting the presidential nod to dissolve Parliament, shortly after the deputy speaker of the Lower House in a pre-orchestrated drama nullified the no-confidence motion against his coalition government.

An angry Opposition called the decisions unconstitutional and approached the Supreme Court, which had by then on its own taken notice of the unfolding constitutional crisis.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial said all orders and actions of Imran and President Arif Alvi on the dissolution will be subject to the court's order, before adjourning the hearing till Monday.

If the dissolution gets judicial approval, an interim national government would be put in place to hold snap polls within three months.

The position of the military establishment in the coup-prone nation was unclear, though for the record it said it had no role in the day's developments. Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa had at least twice met Imran last week to explore workarounds to the crisis.

Imran was widely expected to lose the no-confidence motion moved by an alliance of Opposition politicians, since it included more than a dozen defectors from his own political party.

Since morning, there was speculation that Opposition leaders could suffer physical harm from the ruling party's loyalists after Imran urged them to hit the streets in large numbers. However, the streets were largely quiet partly due heavy security deployment.

The day's drama began with Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri ruling that the no-trust motion was unconstitutional because a minister claimed its origins lay in a foreign plot. Suri chaired the session after the Opposition filed a no-trust motion against Speaker Asad Qaiser.

Soon, Imran addressed the nation saying he had recommended snap polls. President Alvi rubberstamped it in a snap.

"It is nothing short of a high treason. IK has pushed the country into anarchy. Niazi & his cohort will not be allowed to go scot-free. There will be consequences for blatant & brazen violation of the Constitution. Hope SC will play it's role to uphold the Constitution," Opposition leader Shehbaz Sherif later tweeted.

Pakistan's opposition lawmakers arrive at Parliament in Islamabad on Sunday | AFP

Bench's directive to govt

A three-member bench of Pakistan's Supreme Court barred all state institutions from taking any unconstitutional steps while taking note of the unfolding political situation after the dissolution of Parliament

PM mocks Opposition

"The Opposition is still unable to understand what happened today," Imran Khan laughingly told his lawmakers after the no-trust motion was rejected on the floor of the House by the deputy speaker

HUMANE WAY

Govt to BBMP: Pass order to stun animals before killing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN the middle of halal controversy in Karnataka, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services has issued a letter to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) asking the civic body to direct and ensure that all chicken shops and abattoirs in the city slaughter the animals only after stunning them.

According to the department's deputy director, the letter comes after several complaints alleging that rules are not being followed at slaughterhouses.

Stunning is an act of knocking out the senses of an animal prior to slaughter. The notice came in the wake of Hindu organisations appealing for a ban on halal meat as well as Varsha Todaku celebrated on Sunday.

The department has asked BBMP to report to the Bengaluru Urban chapter of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty on Animals on the progress made in ensuring that the slaughterhouses are following the guidelines.

In the letter, dated April 1, the department cited the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001. The Act stipulates that a separate area for stunning the animals prior to slaughter is necessary and also that the the area where it takes place be suitable for the animal as well as for the practice of religious slaughter. P2

Hate speech against Muslims again by Yati

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

RABBLE-ROUSER Yati Narsinghanand yet again stoked controversy on Sunday, asking Hindus to pick up arms and making offensive remarks against Muslims, at northwest Delhi's Burari grounds while addressing a Hindu Mahapanchayat. Delhi Police officials said the organisers did not have permission to hold the event.

Addressing the gathering, Narsinghanand, the head of Ghaziabad's Dasna Devi temple, said "40% Hindus will be killed if India were to get a Muslim PM." He urged Hindus to pick up arms in order to secure their future. "This is the future of Hindus. If you want to change this, be a man (mard bano). What is it to be a man? Someone who is armed," the priest said, who is on bail in a Haridwar hate speech case.

Some journalists who had gone to cover the event alleged they were manhandled and beaten up by members of the audience. P8

WHO HALTS COVAXIN SUPPLY BY U.N. CITING DEFICIENCIES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE World Health Organization on Sunday said it has suspended the supply of Covaxin through the United Nations to allow the jab's maker—Bharat Biotech—to upgrade its facilities and address the deficiencies found during a recent inspection.

The Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech clarified that the said findings will have no impact on the efficacy and safety of its vaccine. "For the millions who have received Covaxin, the vaccine certificates issued still stand valid as there is no impact on efficacy and safety of the vaccine," it said.

Meanwhile, the WHO has asked countries that have received shipments of Covaxin to take appropriate actions without specifying what actions need to be taken.

Also, it did not specify what GMP (good manufacturing practices) deficiencies were found at the facility where Covaxin is made. It said the suspension was in response to the "outcomes of the WHO post-Emergency Use Listing inspections conducted from March 14 to 22".

The WHO, however, assured the public that the vaccine is effective, and no safety concerns exist.

The suspension came after Bharat Biotech on Friday announced it was slowing down the production of Covaxin saying it has completed its supply obligation and was expecting a decrease in demand.

More than 30.81 crore doses of Covaxin have been administered in India to those aged 15 years and above. In a statement, the pharma company said, "It has to be stressed that the quality of Covaxin was never compromised at any point in time" and added that "in the coming period, it would focus on pending facility maintenance, process, and facility optimisation activities."

Will contest next MLC poll from BJP: Horatti

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH @ Hubballi

Finally, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on Sunday announced that he will join BJP ahead of the MLC elections to the west teachers' constituency. With this, the regional party JDS has lost another major leader from North Karnataka to the saffron party.

Horatti told media persons in Hubballi that time has come for him to join the BJP, but he has not decided the date yet. "I will contest the next MLC election on a BJP ticket. Party national president JP Nadda, state leader BS Yediyurappa and top leaders spoke to me and they have all agreed to me joining the party," he added.

Last time, Horatti contested the MLC election from a JDS ticket and won. He was also the education minister. P4

Cong indispensable, not in race to head UPA: Pawar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

DAYS after a Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) wing proposed his name for the UPA chairperson's post, saying the Congress was no longer fit enough to lead the coalition, party chief **Sharad Pawar** said he was not interested in that position, adding the grand old party was indispensible for the grouping because of its pan-India footprint.

"I am not at all interested in that position. I am not going to get into that. I will not take up that responsibility," the former Union minister told the media in Kolhapur.

Interestingly, Pawar was present at the meeting of the NCP youth wing's national executive committee last Tuesday when it adopted a resolution proposing him as the new UPA chief.

Pawar also ruled out the possibility of him becoming the face of the national front of the Opposition in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "But if an attempt is made to provide an alternative (to the BJP), I am ready to co-operate, support and strengthen such a bloc," Pawar said.

As for the Congress, he said it must also be brought on board. "You will find Congress workers in every village, district, and state in the country. Reality is that the Congress, which has a wide presence, must be taken on board," he said.

NATIONWIDE	APRIL 2	APRIL 3
Fresh cases	1,260	1,096
Recoveries	1,404	1,447
Deaths	83	81

KARNATAKA	APRIL 2	APRIL 3
Fresh cases	34	50
Recoveries	79	51
Deaths	0	0

SHODDY JOB

POTHOLES FILLED, BUT...

Adhering to Karnataka High Court directions, BBMP claims to have filled all potholes in the city. But the roads continue to be uneven and bumpy P2

Karnataka to study natural farming on 4,000 acres

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

IN a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the Karnataka government will focus on natural farming and will grow crops without using chemical fertilisers and insecticides on 4,000 acres, with 1,000 acres each in Krishi Vijnana Kendras attached to four Universities of Agriculture Sciences across the state. The decision has been taken as there is an increasing demand for chemical-free vegetables and fruits.

Starting this pre-monsoon, the government will take up the study on chemical-free farming in association with the four agriculture universities – situated in Bengaluru, Dharwad, Raichur and Shivamogga. Once the yield is good, natural farming methods will be taught to farmers.

Agriculture Minister BC Patil told The New Indian Express that these Universities have large tracts of land attached to them, and natural farming will be taken up on 1,000 acres on each campus. The focus will be on region-based crops, he added.

Patil said farmers in the state grow various crops, including paddy, ragi, pulses, jowar, areca nut, fruits and vegetables. Each region grows different crops based on the climate and water availability. "Instead of chemical-based fertilisers and insecticides, scientists will use green leaves, neem, cow dung and other naturally available items to grow crops.

Starting this April and May, which is the pre-monsoon season, we will start the cultivation at these universities. Once it is successful, we will ask farmers from those areas to practice natural farming," he added.

Experts said natural farming is economical for farmers as they don't have to spend money on chemical-based products. Srinivas Reddy, former director and scientific officer, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), said, "Indians practised natural farming for thousands of years with the help of age-old wisdom. P5

EXPRESS READ

Protesters defy Lanka curfew, 650 arrested

Colombo: Defying a curfew imposed to prevent protests, thousands of people took to the streets of Sri Lanka on Sunday to demonstrate against the ongoing economic crisis. Over 650 people were arrested in the country's Western Province of which capital Colombo is a part P9

Ex-top cop Bhaskar Rao to join AAP today

Bengaluru: Boosting AAP efforts to strengthen its organisation in Karnataka ahead of the Assembly polls, former Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao will join the party on Monday. P4